

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A dentifrice composition comprising components (A), (B) and (D):

(A) powder cellulose,

(B) a surfactant, and

(D) granules having a particle size permitting passage of a 30-mesh sieve but not permitting passage of a 200-mesh sieve.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to Claim 2, wherein the content of the powder cellulose is from 0.4 to 2 weight%.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to Claim 2, wherein the powder cellulose has an average polymerization degree of from 440 to 2250.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to Claim 2, wherein the powder cellulose is a non-granulated powder cellulose having a particle size of from 10 to 300 μm .

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to Claim 2, further comprising a binder.

Claim 8. (Original) The dentifrice composition according to Claim 7, wherein the binder comprises at least two binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said surfactant is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said surfactant is present in an amount of 0.1 to 5 wt. %.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said granules are at least one selected from the group consisting of granules available by binding water insoluble powder material with a water insoluble inorganic binder, granules available by binding water insoluble powder materials with a water insoluble organic binder, granules available by coagulating only fine particles of calcium carbonate and wet method granules.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said granules are present in an amount of from 0.5 to 30 wt. %.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 7, wherein said binder is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 3 wt. %.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said composition further comprises a humectant.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 14, wherein said humectant is present in an amount of 1 to 10 wt. %.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said composition further comprises a sweetener.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 16, wherein said sweetener is at least one sweetener selected from the group consisting of saccharin sodium, aspartame, thaumatin, acesulfame potassium, stevioside, stevia extract, paramethoxy cinnamic aldehyde, neohesperidin dihydrochalcon and perillartine.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said composition has a pH of from about 4 to 10.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said dentifrice composition further comprise water in an amount of from about 10 to 50 wt. %.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said granules have a disintegration strength when 0.1 to 30 g of a load is applied per granule.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said powder cellulose has a particle size of from 15 to 100 μm .

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said powder cellulose is present in an amount of from 0.4 to 1 wt. %.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having an HLB number of 16 or more.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said surfactant is at least one anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of an alkyl sulfate ester salt and an acyl amino acid salt.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The dentifrice composition according to claim 2, wherein said surfactant comprise 0.5 pbm or less of a nonionic surfactant having an HLB number of 15 or less relative to 1 pbm of an anionic surfactant.

Claim 26 (New): The dentrifrice composition according to claim 2, which has been prepared by adding and admixing powder cellulose with ingredients (B) and (D).

Claim 27 (New): The dentrifice composition according to claim 2, wherein said powder cellulose has been added to the dentrifice composition in the form of a dispersion obtained by dispersing powder cellulose in a liquid.